

Message Text

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SUBJ: ART EXHIBITION: THE CONTEMPORARY SOUTH

REFS: A) HONG KONG 13970, B) USIA 34357

1. SUMMARY: USLO APPRECIATES THE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR AN EXHIBIT. TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE, USLO PRESENTS DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY AND ANTICIPATED AUDIENCE. THE FACILITY CONSISTS OF TWO ROOMS IN ONE OF TWO APARTMENTS RECENTLY LEASED TO THE POST. THE TWO ROOMS WILL BE USED AS THEATER/LIBRARY/CONFERENCE ROOM/WAITING ROOM/PART-TIME CLASSROOM/RECREATION ROOM/AND SOCIAL HALL. THE FACILITY WILL BE USED BY USLO STAFF AND THEIR GUESTS FROM THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. IT WILL BE USED ALSO FOR OCCASIONAL ENTERTAINMENT OF USLO CHINESE STAFF, DIPLOMATIC SERVICE BUREAU STAFF AND OTHERS, BUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH ENTERTAINMENT ARE NOT FREQUENT. THE PLANNED LIBRARY IS A MODEST EFFORT TO PROVIDE PERIODICAL AND AMERICAN STUDIES TITLES TO THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY. THE POST BELIEVES FILM SHOWINGS AND OTHER FACILITY USAGE PROVIDE A USEFUL VEHICLE FOR EXPOSURE TO AN AMERICANA EXHIBIT. IT WOULD BE AN UNADVERTISED EXHIBIT,
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AND MAY BE REALISTICALLY SEEN AS USLO'S ATTEMPT TO DECORATE

A SECTION OF NEW SPACE IN AN INTELLIGENT AND EDUCATIONAL FASHION. USLO WELCOMES CONTINUED SUPPORT. END SUMMARYM

2. FACILITY: THE SPACE REFERRED TO IN REF (A) IS LOACTED IN A NINE-STORY APARTMENT BUILDING IN THE SAN LI TUN DIPLOMATIC HOUSING COMPOUND. OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE BUILDING ARE AMBASSADORS (CANADIAN, AMONG OTHERS), EMBASSIES (LEBANESE, AMONG OTHERS) AND DIPLOMATS OF COUNSELOR RANK AND ABOVE. TWO APARTMENTS, ONE FIVE-ROOM AND ONE SEVEN-ROOM, CONNECTED BY AN ELEVATOR LOBBY, WERE LEASED TO USLO AS OFFICE SPACE FOLLOWING POST'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE. THE SEVEN-ROOM APARHMENT WILL BE USED FOR ADMIN AND CONSULAR OFFICES. TWO ROOMS IN THE SMALLER APARTMENT NOW HOUSE THE USLO SCHOOL. ANOTHER ROOM WILL BE USED FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE CLASSES TAUGHT BY TWO FSL'S.

THE SPECIFIC SPACE IN QUESTION CONSISTS OF TWO ROOMS (NORMALLY USED AS DINING ROOM AND LIVING ROOM) WHICH USLO INTENDS TO USE AS A COMBINATION THEATER (FILM AND VTR), LIBRARY, CONFERENCE ROOM, WAITING ROOM, PART-TIME CLASSROOM, BUSINESS MEETING ROOM, RECREATION ROOM AND SOCIAL HALL (TENTATIVELY CALLED "INDEPENDENCE HALL", THANKS ENTIRELY TO THE USIA BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT MATERIALS WITH WHICH WE PLAN TO DECORATE HALL).

TO REACH INDEPENDENCE HALL A USER WOULD PASS THROUGH THE ELEVATOR LOBBY (17 X 21 FEET WITH AN 11 X 16 FOOT SUN PORCH ON THE SOUTH WALL OPPOSITE THE ELEVATORS), PASS THROUGH AN ENTRANCE FOYER (12 X 13 FEET) AND ENTER THE LARGER OF THE TWO SUBJECT ROOMS. THIS ROOM (LIVING ROOM) IS 16 X 26 FEET WITH A 6 X 16 FOOT SUN PORT ON THE SOUTH WALL. TO THE NORTH IS THE SMALLER (DINING) ROOM, 16 X 18 FEET. THE LARTER ROOM WILL HOLD THE LIBRARY AND THEATER SEATING AND THE SMALLER ROOM WILL BE USED AS A CONFERENCE ROOM. MOTION PICTURE SCREEN WILL BE LOCATED ON THE NORTH WALL OF THE SMALL ROOM.

3. AUDIENCE: THIS MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY WILL BE USED PRIMARILY BY USLO STAFF AND THEIR GUESTS FROM THE DIPLOMATIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNITY. LOCAL NATIONALS WILL NOT BE REGULAR PATRONS OF THE FACILITY, BUT WE HOPE TO USE THIS FOR OCCASIONAL ENTERTAINMENT OF USLO LOCAL EMPLOYEES, DIPLOMATIC SERVICE BUREAU STAFF AND OTHERS. THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH ENTERTAINMENT ARE NOT FREQUENT, BUT EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO UTILIZE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES.

THE LARGEST NON-AMERICAN SEGMENT OF THE AUDIENCE THEN

IS THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. FILMS ARE THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT, WITH SOME EMBASSIES HOLDING WEEKLY SHOWINGS, MANY OTHERS ON A LESS FREQUENT BASIS. (BICENTENNIAL FILMS "HELLO DOLLY" AND "CINDERELLA" WERE SO POPULAR THAT THE 400 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR EACH SHOWING WERE OVERSUBSCRIBED IN A SINGLE AFTERNOON.) BY USING ALL AVAILABLE SOURCES, USLO HAS RECENTLY SHOWN FILMS WEEKLY IN THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. EVENTUALLY, THIS ACTIVITY WILL BE MOVED TO INDEPENDENCE HALL.

4. THERE IS NO LIBRARY OPEN TO THE ENGLISH SPEAKING COMMUNITY, THOUGH EACH DIPLOMATIC MISSION HAS A SMALL LIBRARY OF ITS OWN. MOST ARE ON THE ORDER OF USLO'S PRESENT FACILITY WHICH CONSISTS OF DONATED PAPERBACKS. A SMALL COLLECTION OF CHINA-RELATED BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE TO STAFF MEMBERS.

THE LIBRARY PLANNED FOR OUR NEW OFFICE SPACE IS NOT SEEN AS A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BUT RATHER ONE THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A VERY LOW-KEY BASIS TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. WE FEEL THAT PERIODICALS WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUCH A SITUATION, TOGETHER WITH A MODEST COLLECTION OF TITLES ON AMERICAN HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, ARTS, ECONOMICS AND FOREIGN POLICY. AT PRESENT, USABLE WALL SPACE IS LIMITED TO 29 LINEAR FEET (EAST AND WEST WALLS OF LARGE ROOM). WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL WALL SPACE, BUT CANNOT COMMIT MORE AT THIS TIME.

5. USLO'S REQUEST FOR SUBJECT EXHIBIT IS FOUNDED IN OUR DESIRE TO USE MOTION PICTURES (AND OTHER USAGE OF INDEPEDENCE HALL) AS A VEHICLE TO EXPOSE OUR AUDIENCE TO A CHANGING EXHIBIT (TWO OR THREE PER YEAR) WHICH WOULD BE PLACED IN THE ELEVATOR LOBBY (ALSO OCCUPIED BY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEPTIONIST), THE ENTRANCE FOYER AND THE HALL ITSELF. IT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS USLO'S ATTEMPT TO DECORATE IN AN INTELLIGENT AND EDUCATIONAL MANNER. EXPOSURE WOULD BE MADE OVER A RELATIVELY LENGTHY PERIOD, NOT TO A LARGE AUDIENCE AT ONCE. IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN EXHIBIT-FOR-AN-EXHIBIT'S-SAKE, SUCH AS JULY 4, ARE RARE. THE SUBJECT EXHIBIT WOULD NOT BE ADVERTISED.

6. IN A SENSE THE EXHIBIT AND THE LIBRARY ARE UNTRIED, EXPERIMENTAL VENTURES. WE FEEL THEIR APPROPRIATENESS AND USEFULNESS MUST BE APPRAISED AFTER A FAIR TRIAL. THE BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT WAS HIGHLY CONSIDERED BY THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY (NO MEANINGFUL APPRAISAL IS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHINESE), AND READING IS NATURALLY A POPULAR PASTIME IN

PEKING. UNTIL WE ATTEMPT OTHER PROGRAMS, ONLY FILMS CAN
BE CONSIDERED A SURE-FIRE HIT. FROM OUR STANDPOINT
THE SMALL LIBRARY AND THE EXHIBIT HAVE A REASONABLE
CHANCE OF SUCCESS AND DESERVE AGENCY SUPPORT.
GATES

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